

carrying from 16 to 20 guns, of which 13 are in commission, 4 in ordinary, and 4 preparing for sea. There are 4 brigs, carrying ten guns each, one is a receiving vessel, and 8 are in commissions. There are 10 schooners, carrying from 4 to 10 guns, all in commission. There are two steamers and one store-ship all in commission, and two sea-steamers building. The total is 68 vessels, 39 being now in commission, 12 in ordinary, 12 on the stocks ready for launching, or in ordinary, 4 preparing for sea, and 1 receiving vessel. They carry, in all, 2106 guns.

Of the officers of the navy in commission, there are 55 captains, 55 commanders, 290 lieutenants, 61 surgeons, 17 passed assistant surgeons, 53 assistant surgeons, 51 pursers, 13 chaplains, 191 passed midshipmen, 231 midshipmen, 29 masters, 17 professors of mathematics and teachers of naval school, 32 boatswains, 37 gunners, 24 carpenters, and 25 sail-makers. *Sailor Magazine.*

CONFLAGRATION OF THE STARS.

The astronomical statement below is calculated to rouse the imagination even of the most phlegmatic.

The world's end.—During the last two or three centuries, upwards of thirteen fixed stars have disappeared. One of them, situated in the northern hemisphere, presented a peculiar brilliancy, and was so bright as to be seen by the naked eye at mid-day. It seemed to be on fire, appearing at first of a dazzling white, then of a reddish yellow, and lastly of an ashy pale colour. La Place supposes that it was burned up, as it has never been seen since. The conflagration was visible about sixteen months. How dreadful! A whole system on fire, the great central luminary and its planets, with their plains, mountains, forests, villages, cities, and inhabitants, all in flames, consumed, and here we have a presumptive proof of the truth, and a solemn illustration of a singular passage in a very old book—"The heavens will pass away with a great noise, the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the world also, and the works that are therein, shall be burned up."—*quincy Sentinel.*

THE WHALE FISHERY IN THE UNITED STATES

The Nantucket Inquirer has published an extended statement of the whale fishery in the United States, giving the name and class of each vessel, with many other particulars. The total number of vessel is 531, the most of them large ships, carrying, probably, 30 men each. Of these vessels, 2 belong to the state of Maine, 1 to New Hampshire, 375 to Massachusetts, 37 to Rhode Island, 54 to Connecticut, 56 to the state of New York, 1 to New Jersey, and 5 to Delaware. They are owned in the following places:

Wiscasset, Me.	1
Portland, do.	1
Portsmouth, N. H.	1
New Bedford, Mass.	169
Nantucket, do.	82
Fairhaven, do.	42
Salem, do.	14
Westport, do.	9
Edgartown, do.	8
Mattapoisett, do.	8
Sippican, do.	8
Falmouth, do.	7
Holmes' Hole, do.	4
Wareham, do.	3
Dartmouth, do.	3
Lynn, do.	3
Plymouth, do.	3
Boston, do.	2
Dorchester, do.	2
Newburyport, Mass.	2
New London, Con.	35
Stonington, do.	9
Mystic, do.	7
Bridgeport, do.	3
Warren, Rhode Island.	10
Newport, do.	19

Bristol, do.	5
Providence, do.	3
Sagharbor, New-York,	30
Hudson, do.	8
Poughkeepsie do.	6
Greenport, do.	5
New-York, do.	3
Cold Spring, do.	2
New Suffolk, do.	1
Jamesport, do.	1
Newark, New Jersey,	1
Wilmington, Delaware,	5

ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC.

On Nov. 14, 1830, Capt. Cash, in the *Harvest*, discovered land, bearing south, 10 miles distant, the ship then heading E. S. E., the island extending from S. S. E. to N. N. W., about 20 miles, well wooded, principally with cocoa nut trees; it appeared mostly low, but here and there some bluffs, of perhaps 40 feet high; it is probably inhabited, as a large smoke was for some time visible in the centre of it. Made the east part in lat. 9 38 S. long. 158 14 West. Whether this be a new island or not is uncertain. It is not on the charts, and our knowledge of it is very imperfect. Capt. Cash is of opinion it is Penrhyn's Island, placed on the charts 40 miles farther east; but if Capt. Alexander Macy's discovery be correct, as given when in the *Peruvian*, this must be a new discovery, as the longitude is deduced from the chronometer, and good lunar observations. Capt. Cash found in his last voyage; in 1834, in the ship *Courier*, Bauman's Island, Roggewain's Island, and Tienhoven's Island must not be farther west than their situation on the charts; as he ran in the longitude of them all, as given by two good chronometers, then four days from the Society Islands, the weather being clear and saw nothing resembling land; which induces him to think the island above described may be Penrhyn's Island, 40 miles W. of its place on the charts.

Capt. Cash likewise saw, in 1834, an island bearing N. W. by N. 1-2 N., from Flint's Island, very low and dangerous, being only seen at a short distance, the lat. about 10 36 S., but, being thick weather, did not ascertain the longitude. It is important that this should be known to every navigator in the Pacific, as ships leaving the Society Islands bound north, frequently make Flint's Islands, and this lies in the track of ships bound to the line. Two other shipmasters have seen this island, in about the latitude above given, and were near running their ships upon it.—*Nantucket Enq.*

MUSCAT.

THE ASIATIC SHIP OF WAR. Among the novel events of the day, is the late arrival at New York, of a vessel and cargo from Muscat, on the Persian Gulf. This vessel, called the "*Sultance*," or "*Royal*," is a sloop of war, under the command of Reis Achmed Ben Hamed, and belongs to the Imaun of Muscat, the Seid Said ben Sultan. Capt. Achmed is the bearer of a letter and complimentary expressions according to Asiatic usage, from Sultan Seid to the President of the United States.

The extension of our commerce with Asiatic nations, and its security by treaty stipulations, has been the subject of anxious and successful interest to the administration. One of the happy results of this care of our commercial interest, was a treaty of navigation and commerce with the Imaun of Muscat, which relieved our commerce from discriminating duties. Another advantageous treaty has been concluded with the kingdom of Siam, and approaches have been made with the same desirable object, to the empires of Cochin China, Japan and China.

The value of our trade to the dominions of the Sultan of Muscat is greater than may be supposed. Official returns for

eighteen months, of vessels that visited Zanzibar, show the number to be forty-one, of which thirty-two were American. Twenty of these were from Salem, three from Boston, and three from New York. Zanzibar is an island on the east coast of Africa, and is the depot for the trade of the coast, and of the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. The United States are represented there by a consul.

Sultan Seid possesses large territory on the east coast of Africa, extending from Cape Delgado to Cape Gardafui. His navy consists of seventy-five vessels of war, of which several are line-of-battle ships, which is a larger naval force than that of all the Asiatic princes combined on the Indian ocean.

The presence of one of the Sultan's ships in our harbours affords us extreme gratification; and we hope that the Sultane's voyage to the United States will result in frequent visits of Sultan Seid's vessels to our ports.—*Washington Globe.*

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1841.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS DAWNING—OR THE CONTRAST.

Last week, visions of horsewhips, broken canes, pistols, and other murderous paraphernalia were flitting in grim and awful array, across our terrified imagination, accompanied by a confused multitude of "threats" as dim, bodiless, and as vapory as the ghosts from the land of the mist. So *bluish* did our spirits wax, that we had serious intentions of fortifying our premises with ink bottles, so arranged that the contents might be discharged by means of a spring, upon the countenance of any rash assailant. But such dark thoughts were soon dispelled, under the genial influence of sundry savory articles received from sympathising friends, which were all promptly forwarded to their destination. We know not whom to thank for the "*Log Cabin Pie*," but its effect upon the inner man was so decidedly beneficial, that we should not have the slightest objection to receive many more "*sich*."

RAW SILK.

Some specimens of Raw Silk from this place were sent to Mazatlan by the *Maryland*. We learn that it commands from \$7 50 to \$8 per pound, in that market. The specimen forwarded was not of the best quality, being one of the first reeled. Silk growers will be likely hereafter to find that place an excellent market for their silk.

Mr. Robson, passenger in the *Swallow*, informs us that Panama has declared itself an independent Republic, and will probably be able to maintain its independence. Some of the first acts have been to take off some of the former restrictions upon commerce.

The Queen Regent of Spain abdicated in October, and retired to France. The abdication of the King of the French was spoken of, in the French papers. The Emperor of Austria it was rumored would follow his example. The Blockade of the Ports and Coasts of Syria was rigidly enforced. Tyre and Sidon were taken on the 26th Sept. by the joint forces of Austria and England, after a severe cannonade. The fortress was carried by storm. The allied forces lost 40 killed and 70 wounded.

One hundred thousand men are to be called out to assist in the funeral ceremonies of the Emperor Napoleon.

Queen Victoria is the mother of a "fine daughter," so letters received in Mazatlan, before the *Maryland* sailed, state.

The news by the *Maryland* is up to the 12th of December from the United States.

Gen. WILLIAM H. HARRISON received 234 votes and Mr. Van Buren 60. The former is elected President of the United States. His term of office commenced 4th inst.

President Van Buren's Message to Congress for the session of 1840-41, has been received here. In it he pays high and deserved compliments to the Commander and Officers of the U. S. Exploring Squadron for their zeal and fidelity in accomplishing the objects of the expedition.

Frigate *Constellation* and Sloop *Boston* under the command of Com. Kearney, have sailed for the Indian Ocean.

The Yorktown, Corvette of 18 guns, Allick, Commander, has been ordered to these islands, which, with the southern groups and New Zealand are to form a distinct naval station. The whaling interests on Japan are to be specially looked after. This step has frequently been urged upon the American government, and it is one that has long been needed. We shall hail her arrival with much pleasure.

Ship *Gloucester* sailed from Boston Nov. 10th, for this port, via Valparaiso.

European affairs still remain in an unsettled state, though the tone of Louis Philippe's Address to the Chamber of Deputies is decidedly pacific. The Peace party have secured a majority in the Chamber. M. Thiers and his colleagues in the Ministry have resigned, and a new Ministry is formed, in which Marshal Soult is President and Minister of War, M. Guizot of Foreign Affairs, Admiral Duperre, Marine. This Cabinet gives great satisfaction to those desirous of maintaining peace in Europe.

The "*Stewart palace*," has been rebuilt within the royal enclosure near the fort, retaining the "*glass folding doors*" &c. which have been the cause of so much discussion. They are now simply large doors with side and top lights. The house is a very pretty specimen of Hawaiian architecture; the best on the islands perhaps, with the exception of Amelia's, the Governess of Kauai. The is 110 feet in length, 34 in breadth, and to the ridge-pole, forming one lofty and beautiful room. The posts, timbers, and rafters are all perfectly white, straight and of equal size, and bound together by cinet, disposed into fanciful shapes. The thatch is laid in the smoothest and neatest manner possible, and the whole interior is so arranged to produce quite a grand effect, upon a visitor accustomed to the common edifices of Hawaiians.

CALIFORNIA.

A new law has been enforced in California by which all the coasting trade must be carried on in vessels under the Mexican Flag. Foreign vessels are allowed to enter and discharge their cargoes only at the port of Monterey. Sugar and Salt are made contraband articles.

The French Exploring Expedition, consisting of the *Astrolabe* and *Zelie* are expected to visit Oahu this season. These vessels are the same that the Porpoise met at the extreme south, a few days after the discovery of the Antarctic Continent.

EARTHQUAKE AT MAUI. Two distinct shocks were felt on the 9th inst at Lahaina. A rare occurrence on that island.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Those on other islands who have not settled their subscriptions for the *Polynesian* will confer a favor by remitting the amount due, as soon as practicable.

To the Editor of the *Polynesian*:

SIR—To our great astonishment, we have just seen in the Editorial part of the *Gaceta de Gobierno de San Luis Potosi*, under date of 20th June, a false statement respecting the revolution which took place in that port in November 1836, and the apprehension of a number of foreigners in April, 1840. Some person or persons, we suppose, have